

# Mass. Riverways Newsletter, Spring, 1997

A Publication of the Riverways Program

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Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Trudy Coxe, *Secretary* William F. Weld,  
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## The Mass Watershed Initiative: Retooling and Revenues

After two years of excitement, environmental success stories and organizational growing pains, the Watershed Initiative is gearing up for the long haul.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) realignment of regional staff into watershed teams is being implemented. New Team leaders have been assigned (see the list on page 13). Staff are receiving orientation and training and beginning to work with other agency and public team members in setting tasks for the various phases of the watershed schedule. DEP is directing the funding decisions for their grant programs (319, 604b, 104b, SRF) to coincide with the watersheds scheduled for implementing team recommendations for restoration and mitigation.

Secretary Coxe sought an evaluation of the watershed initiative from a consulting firm that works across the country advising states on the watershed approach. Once their recommendations come in, state agencies will be working to make needed adjustments.

Meanwhile, the state grants totaling \$530,000 that Secretary Coxe announced last fall to assist regional groups in implementing the watershed approach to resource protection are being distributed. These two-year grants have contract obligations tied to specific organizational and environmental goals.

### **"Comprehensive" grants**

Three grants have been designated for implementing a "comprehensive" approach toward watershed resource management following on the example of the pilot project of the last two years in the Neponset River Watershed.

In the Shawsheen River watershed the primary focus is on improving water quality by reducing nonpoint source pollution. The leaders of this project are the Merrimack River Watershed Council and the EOEa Watershed Team. Working closely together, they will engage the public and the eight towns in the watershed in changing the way they address the problems of "pointless" pollution.

Volunteers and other watershed partners will collect existing data and conduct field work to gather new information; results will be available to the public through the state GIS system. In March, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will offer strategies to prevent pollution from parking lot runoff, streambank erosion, agricultural sites, and golf courses - all areas identified by volunteers during a recent Shoreline Survey.

In the Sudbury, Concord and Assabet (SUASCO) watershed system, The SUASCO Coalition --the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Organization for the Assabet River, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Hop Brook Protection Association, Framingham Advocates for the Sudbury River, and Suasco Watershed Association-- is working to put into place the proposed structure of the Mass Watershed Initiative. The Coalition will develop more Stream Teams, a Technical Advisory Group, and a Watershed Community Council with

representatives from the Coalition, the Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council, businesses and municipalities. These Stream Teams and the Community Council will work with the EOEA Watershed Team to set priorities for land and water protection. They will use the Technical Advisory Group to provide assistance and to access the expertise and funds needed to remedy pollution "hot spots."

In the Connecticut River watershed three organizations will take responsibility for improving the environmental protection process. The Connecticut River Watershed Council will focus on strengthening the network of municipalities and environmental advocacy groups and improving the delivery of services to this network. Outreach, education, and information sharing are a major part of their scope of work. The Franklin County Planning Commission and Pioneer Valley Planning Council will conduct two model subwatershed projects that will demonstrate restoration strategies.

## **Capacity Building Grants**

Six grants have been awarded to build the capacity of regional watershed organizations to work together for long term protection of watershed resources.

In the Ipswich River watershed there is a commitment to building a broader constituency for improving overall ecosystem health. Historic and present demands on the river to supply water for over 330,000 residents in towns in and adjacent to the watershed require greater public understanding and support to conserve water and maintain healthy flows in the river.

In the Blackstone River watershed the primary task of the proponents--the Blackstone River Watershed Association and the UMASS Extension Service--is to build a stronger organization to participate effectively on the EOEA watershed team. The partners will recruit and strengthen a volunteer constituency through Stream Teams and become a clearinghouse for watershed protection strategies in the Blackstone River valley for town boards and citizens.

The Hoosic River Watershed Association plans to use its grant monies to make their organization larger and more professional, and to build a web of partnerships which may eventually form the nucleus of a Watershed Community Council. They will focus on building an infrastructure of trails, greenways, and access points so that people in the area can encounter the river in its many facets.

The Parker River Clean Water Association is continuing to build its capacity to be successful in working with town boards to institute land and water use practices that will improve conditions for restoration of healthy shellfish beds and anadromous fish runs.

In the Taunton River watershed, one of the largest in the state, the challenge is for the Watershed Alliance to develop a voice for the rivers in the face of rapid development. The Alliance wants to create strong partnerships with the thirty-eight towns and cities in the watershed for effective environmental protection. They will address water supply issues and the need for protecting open space.

The Fore River, one of greater Boston's less known rivers, benefits from the care and concern of a relatively new Fore River Watershed Association. Their grant will be used to build a stronger organization with a broad-based membership and the institutional capacity to reach out to residents in the three cities in their watershed-- Quincy, Weymouth and Braintree - and the Back and Weir Rivers. They will work to strengthen their education and outreach efforts and build a strong sustainable financial base for environmental protection in the watershed.

## **Serving Watershed Groups**

In order to assist these nine watersheds, Riverways staff is working with other agencies and the Steering Committee of the Watershed Initiative to develop easy access to needed services to carry out their workplans.

DEP is planning technical assistance to municipal officials for a watershed approach to reducing nonpoint source pollution. Starting in the Ten Mile River watershed, Renee DeShazo of DEP will conduct a pilot program based on the NEMO (Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials) used successfully by the Cooperative Extension Service in Connecticut. DeShazo hopes to continue this municipal assistance in the Parker River, the Shawsheen River and the upper Charles River watersheds.

We have been fortunate to receive two small grants at the Riverways Program -- a 319 DEP grant and an EPA Education grant -- to hire two staff to work with watershed groups on forming Stream Teams, conducting Shoreline Surveys and implementing action plans. Becka Roolf and Steven Lewis are now beginning field training with watershed groups as assistants to Joan Kimball.

To assist environmental advocates in addressing wastewater and other water quality issues Cindy DelPapa has recently joined our staff. She is prepared to help groups learn about the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting and compliance process. Cindy is also available to advise on how to act on citizen water quality monitoring results and how to begin to address stormwater issues.

Russ Cohen and Maria Van Dusen are available to help groups look at riparian corridor land use issues. Russ can discuss likely protections from the implementation of the River Protection Act. Maria will meet with watershed and open space committees to develop

regional open space plans that will protect river values. Karen Pelto continues to work across all boundaries to encourage water policy decisions and actions that will preserve river flows that are healthy for aquatic organisms and fisheries. Contact her if you are interested in joining the Fishway Stewardship Program.

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## **Rivers Protection Act Update**

As most of you know, the Rivers Protection Act, Chapter 258 of the Acts of 1996, went into effect immediately upon its signing by Governor Weld last August 7. Regulations spelling out in detail how the Act should be administered are due out this August.

### **Interim Guidance**

Meanwhile, to assist conservation commissions in implementing the Act, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued an interim guidance document on November 18th. Although this guidance does not have the formal authority of regulations, it does set out DEP's current interpretation of the statute and may indicate what to expect in the eventual regulatory language.

One of the key concepts contained in the guidance is dividing the 200-foot riverfront area in half, into an "inner" and "outer" riparian zone.

Proposed work within the riverfront area must meet an "alternatives" test (the proponent must show that there is no substantially equivalent economic alternative to the proposed development outside of the riverfront area), as well as a five-part "no significant adverse impact" test.

One way to meet this test is to comply with the following five steps:

- the work must conform with performance standards for all other resource areas within the riverfront area;
- an inner riparian zone of 100 feet of undisturbed vegetation (measured horizontally from the river's mean annual high water line) must be maintained;
- within the 100-foot outer riparian zone, alteration of riverfront area must be limited to 5,000 square feet or 20% of this 100-foot zone (whichever is greater);
- stormwater must be managed according to DEP's Stormwater Management Policy (also issued last Nov. 18); and
- the project may not have any adverse effect on specified habitat sites of rare

wetland or upland, vertebrate or invertebrate species, as identified by the procedures established under 310 CMR 10.59 or 10.37 (i.e., the Natural Heritage Program's estimated habitat atlas of rare wetlands wildlife), or have any adverse effect on certified vernal pool habitat.

## Drafting Regulations

DEP is now formulating draft regulations for the Act, which are expected to be mailed out in mid-April, with public hearings across the state scheduled for May. Section 11 of the Act directed DEP Commissioner David Struhs to appoint an eight-person Riverfront Advisory Committee to participate in the review of draft regulatory language.

The members of this committee, appointed in January, are: Peter Schilling, Trout Unlimited; George Hall, Mass. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions (MACC); Paul Burns, MassPIRG; Susan Gillan, Chicopee Conservation Commission; Joe Polsinello, Inland Professional Corporation; Don Wilson, Wilson Farms; Doug Gillespie, Mass. Farm Bureau (representing aquaculture); and Bill McCabe, New England Development.

So far, the committee has discussed various topics relevant to the regulatory drafting process such as more precise definitions of "river" and "substantially equivalent economic alternative" and whether the same list of "limited projects" applicable to other wetland resource areas should be applicable within the riverfront area as well.

## Tools for Local Government

As city and town conservation commissions are in the front lines for implementing the Act locally, the MACC, with input from the Rivers Campaign, is taking a lead role in suggesting language that gives strong protection to riverfront areas while remaining easily administrable.

In the meantime, a group of wetlands and rivers educators and advocates are working with the MACC to disseminate educational material on the underlying science of how riparian corridors function. Providing a science-based rationale for why limiting certain activities in riparian areas is necessary to safeguard their functions will help foster a positive climate for the full and effective implementation of the Act.

So far, a series of nine Fact Sheets have been prepared which discuss the functions of riparian areas, coinciding with the eight enumerated purposes of the Rivers Protection Act: to protect private or public water supply, groundwater, land containing shellfish, wildlife habitat and fisheries; provide flood control; and to prevent storm damage and pollution. Also available is a fact sheet stating the scientific justification for the inclusion of smaller brooks and streams in a 'Rivers' Protection Act. Copies of these fact sheets are

available through Riverways or the MACC or through Riverways' Web page.

To provide technical support to conservation commissions and planning boards in implementing both the stormwater guidance and Rivers Protection Act, DEP will release a stormwater management handbook in mid-March. Workshops will be held on April 23, 24, 29 and 30 at DEP's regional offices.

## **The Next 25 Years**

In related news, an outside (nonstatutory) section of the Rivers Protection Act directed the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) to develop a "twenty-five year plan to protect the natural integrity of the rivers of the Commonwealth" and submit such plan to the legislature by January 31. EOEA prepared and submitted by this deadline an interim report (which Riverways staff helped write). Copies can be obtained from Rob Garrity at EOEA at (617) 727-9800 ext. 231.

EOEA has promised to submit a more detailed and comprehensive report to the legislature by the end of June. Local watershed associations are encouraged to contact EOEA to share their thoughts and ideas about what actions are necessary to protect the integrity of their local river systems in the next twenty-five years.

EOEA has also been given a role under Section 18 of the Act, which enables communities to request EOEA approval for reducing the width of riverfront areas from 200 to 25 feet in those portions of communities that are already densely developed. EOEA is still in the process of developing an application, evaluation, and designation process. Contact Sharon Pelosi at (617) 727-9800 ext. 426 for additional information.

Last but not least, the Rivers Campaign, the coalition of environmental organizations that helped achieve passage of the Act, reports that opponents of the Rivers Bill are now lobbying in the legislature against DEP's regulatory efforts. The lobby is accusing the DEP of "overreaching" the statute, and several bills have been filed to weaken the Act. The Rivers Campaign, urges all those who support strong protection of rivers and streams to make their views known to their elected representatives, who may otherwise get the impression that public support for river protection is waning.

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## **Fishway and Fishrun Restoration**

Construction of the new fishway on the Sylvania Dam at the mouth of the Ipswich River

is now complete! A dedication will be held in mid-May, hosted by Governor Weld and DFWELE Commissioner John Phillips. As in years past, blueback herring will be stocked, living symbols of the new life in the river. Completion of this project represents a challenging but satisfactory partnership between the Town of Ipswich, Department of Environmental Management and DFWELE. The fishway is rumored to be named "Rumani" to celebrate the spirit of its champions.

Alewife runs on the Weweantic and Mattapoisett Rivers now have an easier time reaching their spawning grounds thanks to the work of the Buzzards Bay Project, watershed towns, and local advocates with assistance from the Division of Marine Fisheries.

Replacement of small submerged roadway culverts that presented obstacles to migrating adults and installation of a new denil-type fishway on a dam at the mouth of the Mattapoisett River will allow alewives clearer access to Snipatuit Pond.

A DEP .319 Nonpoint Source Pollution grant funded construction for a denil-type fishway at Horseshoe Pond on the Weweantic River. An educational display highlighting herring restoration will be developed by the Buzzards Bay Project for use throughout the watershed.

Emerging from Massachusetts Audubon North Shore's "Great Marsh Summit" was a commitment (and a committee) to improve the alewife run in the Parker River. This February, Charlie Eicher of the Essex County Sportsmens Association led eight hardy members on a tour of the river's six fishways.

Constructed in the 1930's, these fishways are exhibiting varying levels of decline. The most common problem is undercutting of the control boxes at the head, or inlet, of each fishway. This hinders the adjustment of water velocity so critical to providing smooth upstream passage. The walls of many fishways show root and ice damage, with stones falling into the channel.

Two fishways are poorly positioned and alewives pass the entrances toward the higher flows at the base of the dams. The committee selected one site as a priority for replacement. Another replacement priority is at the headwaters of the run where only part of the original fishway remains standing.

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## American Rivers: Our National Heritage

President Clinton announced a new American Heritage Rivers Initiative in his State of the Union address this year, "to help communities alongside them revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution in the rivers, proving once again that we can grow the economy as we protect the environment."

American Heritage Rivers worthy of designation may be those that played a major role in exploration and settlement, travel and commerce, the industrial revolution, or those possessing scenic landscapes or harbor our natural heritage. Federal funding for rivers and their constituencies, or federal priorities for protection may be among the benefits of designation.

Ten rivers will be designated in 1997; American Rivers seeks grassroots support for the Initiative. American Rivers has posted a White House fact sheet describing the Initiative and other supporting documentation on its [Web site \(www.amrivers.org/\)](http://www.amrivers.org/) or contact Chad Smith, 202-547-6900 x3023.

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## **Neponset River Greenways: A Local and Regional Treasure**

To facilitate a watershed approach to planning and creating a greenway throughout the Neponset River watershed from the headwaters in Foxboro to the estuary in Hyde Park and Milton, the Riverways Program asked David McGowan, a graduate student at Antioch, to develop the Upper Neponset Greenway study plan. David evaluated the possibilities for and the threats to a protected riparian corridor along the mainstem of the Neponset River south of Route 128 and the metropolitan park system. He examined linkages between potential and existing trails; and assessed town priorities for protection and development as they relate to the river.

The juxtaposition of special natural features with historically significant areas in two areas and anticipated changes in land use led David to focus on developing a constituency in Canton and Walpole for land acquisition and trail development.

In the Fowl Meadow area this has meant garnering town support for the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) to continue their land protection beyond the recent acquisition of the old Canton airport property to connect the Warner and Bay Circuit Trails to the Blue Hills and other urban parks of the Emerald Necklace. Residents are looking to the MDC for needed long term protection for vegetated wetlands and forested swamps which are safe haven for several threatened and endangered species. Nearby, native American artifacts dating back over ten thousand years are located on a private

property.

The Bird Pond area in Walpole also exhibits many excellent greenway qualities. Towering hemlock and oak trees dominate the Pinnacle, a town-owned conservation property. Several undeveloped parcels abutting the river have an abundance of wildlife and help preserve the river's water quality.

Across the river a Native American corn mortar has been entered on the Massachusetts Historic Register. One of the first native american reservations in the country was established on these banks in 1685. Nearby old mill sites document the earliest days of the industrial revolution in America.

However, much of this is likely to change in the near future. Approximately 300 single family homes are slated to be built on three undeveloped parcels near Bird Pond. As spelled out in the report the town could take steps to modify this development to protect the lands around Bird Pond and save money for the Town in the bargain.

A 1995 study commissioned by the Southern New England Forest Consortium found that for every dollar of revenue received by the participating Massachusetts towns, an average of \$1.09 was expended on community services related to residential developments. The average cost of community services for open space in the studied towns was just \$0.44 for each dollar of revenue.

Meanwhile, a group of residents mostly from Walpole, calling themselves the Upper Neponset Alliance, have undertaken planning for a protected trail corridor. They have garnered support from the Selectmen and other town boards for a spur trail from the Bay Circuit Trail. When completed, the spur trail will link all the historical and natural resources along the river from downtown Walpole to Endean Park in Norwood. This trail could also serve as the northern terminus for the Southern New England Trunkline Trail.

It would also link with the lower Neponset Greenway project that the Trust for Public Lands, the Boston Natural Areas Fund and the MDC have been supporting in the communities east of Route 128. Their public celebrations and other events, newsletters and community organizing have complemented similar efforts by the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative to bring a greater understanding of how all human activities can contribute to the health of the river or to its degradation.

One interesting way the lower Neponset River Greenway Council is getting people to learn more about the river is through its current Art Exhibit on "Currents in Time on the Harvest River." This Exhibit is on display at the Lower Mills Library until April 10th when it moves to the Hyde Park Library through May 17th. Its final showing is at the Mattapan Family Service Center from May 21st to June 27th.

If efforts in Walpole and Canton are successful, a broader picture unfolds and a great greenway legacy will emerge: A hiker from the North Shore will be able to travel south along the Bay Circuit Trail to the Southern New England Trunkline Trail and spur trail in Walpole, and onward to the Massachusetts Audubon Society Moose Hill Sanctuary in Sharon. The hiker can then either venture south on the Warner Trail to Rhode Island, continue on the Bay Circuit Trail to South Shore beaches, or head north to Boston.

The Boston route would follow the reestablished Warner Trail through the Fowl Meadow to the Blue Hills. The Lower Neponset River Reservation would then connect the Blue Hills to Squantum Point at the river's mouth. Suburban points along the Bay Circuit, Trunkline, and Warner Trails would be linked to the urban gems of the Emerald Necklace including Franklin Park, Castle Island, and the Charles River Esplanade.

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## **News Notes \_ Spring 1997**

### **Partnership Successes WORKING WITH THE WATERSHED INITIATIVE**

Central to the Watershed Initiative is the concept of partners \_ working together to protect our resources within a watershed. Partners include residents, municipalities, watershed associations, businesses, civic associations, state and federal agencies, Regional Planning Agencies - everyone.

To coordinate the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) on a watershed basis, Secretary Trudy Coxe created Basin Teams. Basin Teams include EOEA staff (DEP, DEM, DFWELE, DFA, and, when appropriate, MDC), and many have members from watershed associations, federal agencies (EPA, NRCS), Conservation Districts and others. The Basin Team's work is divided into five Phases: (1) Outreach; (2) Research; (3) Assessment/Planning; (4) Implementation; and (5) Evaluation. Some of the highlights of working as partners follow:

#### **ASSABET**

##### **OAR - Organization for the Assabet River - Research**

Last summer and fall, OAR and the EOEA/DEP Team conducted joint sampling for total phosphorus on the Assabet River. A current database was needed to frame discussions with the Town of Acton regarding its future sewerage needs and discharges. Working

closely with DEP, OAR collected samples for analysis at the DEP lab. For quality control purposes, OAR also collected an identical set of samples for analysis at a private lab and the results were extremely close to those obtained by DEP.

EOEA/DEP Team Leader (1996), Eben Cheseborough gave OAR's Barbara Offenhartz and volunteers much credit for conducting the sample collection: "This effort may serve as a prototype for future collaborative efforts between watershed groups and EOEA teams."

In addition, OAR has partnered with Americorps member Elise Church, town boards, residents of Maynard (Maynard/Assabet River Initiative) and Riverways to conduct Shoreline Surveys and create a course of action that will benefit the community and the river. (OAR is one of the Sudbury, Assabet, Concord River partners receiving a 1997 Watershed Initiative Comprehensive Grant. See article on page 1)

## **MERRIMACK**

### **MRWC: Merrimack River Watershed Council: Partners in Research (Monitoring/Shoreline Surveys)**

Nonpoint source pollution prevents the Shawsheen waters from meeting water quality standards for swimming or boating. Local partners are working to correct these diffuse problems.

Basin Team leader for 1996, DEP's Bill Dunn, recruited local partners to work with the team in assessing and protecting the river.

Response was even greater than Bill anticipated. 1996 was the first year for the Merrimack River Watershed Council's (MRWC) volunteer monitoring program in the Shawsheen River watershed. DEP monitored the mainstem in the summer of 1996, the Air Force monitored on the Hanscom base, EPA Lexington Labs tested toxicity at six sites, and the Stream Teams monitored tributaries.

The eight Stream Teams were trained to conduct Shoreline Surveys, to take water quality samples, and to study benthic macroinvertebrates. All of these results are included in the DEP Team Assessment Report released in fall 1996.

Partners on the Shawsheen include DEP, Riverways, EOEA Wetlands Restoration and Land Banking Program, US Air Force at Hanscom Field in Bedford, Massport, Northeast Business Environmental Network, 3 Regional Planning Councils, EPA, NRCS, USGS, USFWS, River Watch Network, VEMN, Shawsheen Environmental Action Team (SWEAT), and the eight Stream Teams.

At its Annual Meeting, MRWC honored Bill Dunn, EOEA/DEP Team Leader as a

volunteer of the year for creating opportunities for citizens to work with the team in preparing an assessment and action plan to improve the waters of the Shawsheen.

Ralph Goodno, President of the MRWC, reported that "Bill has done an outstanding job engaging the interests in the Shawsheen watershed in the project to get different points of view and to maximize different sources of information and resources. Because of this, the Shawsheen will be a perfect example of what the state wanted when it drafted the WI."

In return, MRWC is "loaning" an intern to DEP in Woburn to determine which "21 E" (hazardous waste) sites are in the Shawsheen watershed.

The Merrimack River Watershed Council is a recipient of a 1997 Watershed Initiative Comprehensive Grant for the Shawsheen River.

## **WESTFIELD**

### **WRWA: Westfield River Watershed Association: Assessment/Planning**

The Westfield River Watershed Associations' Shoreline Survey Action Planning is an example of effective partnership. Responding to invitations from WRWA and Riverways, EOEA Team Leader Mike Parker and DEP basin staff attended an action planning meeting facilitated by Riverways staff.

Mike gave a clear description of the Watershed Initiative and the important role the watershed association, municipalities and citizens have in working with EOEA to protect resources in the Westfield watershed. As WRWA determined action steps, it was able to report problems immediately to DEP staff present. At its annual retreat in January, WRWA involved EOEA Basin Team members and the Massachusetts Watershed Coalition in planning work for the upcoming year.

Commenting on the team's participation in the action planning meeting and retreat and upcoming role in the Westfield River Symposium (at Westfield State College), WRWA President Dave Pardoe said "We are delighted that the headquarters of the basin team has moved to the river and the outlook for the state is very local and we are in constant communication on many problems."

## **PARKER**

### **Parker River: Outreach for implementation**

The Parker River Community Forum brought together key players to share information leading to implementation and problem solving. The successful attendance (over 90 people) was attributable to strong local partners - Lisa Nichols of the Mass Bays Program at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission and David Mountain of the Parker River

Clean Water Association - playing a large role in organizing and advertising the Forum.

Displays by local groups, such as the Essex County Sportsmens Association, and federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, in addition to state agencies and others bolstered attendance and fostered sharing of ideas and information.

Dave Mountain's slide show, a "Tour of the Parker River," set the tone for the evening. Succinct presentations by team members made the issues facing the river clear. Several members of the audience said that seeing statistics about water use by town showed clearly how their individual practices affect river resources.

Watershed residents and groups then took the floor, describing success stories. A marina owner promoted his successful boat pumpout program; Mass Audubon staff described their Mill River Project; Coastal Zone Management staff discussed regional approaches and grant opportunities. The handouts, prepared by the Team, were reported to be excellent. At least one citizen was heard to say that this was the best public meeting he had ever attended.

Next steps include issuing permits for drinking water and wastewater, and to work together on specific issues relating to river health. David Mountain of the Parker River Clean Water Association is "pleased that the Association has established closer working relationships with municipal officials...they found the Forum informative and it won their respect." As the Watershed Initiative progresses, his only disappointment is that "not all state agencies are participating equally in the process."

The Parker River Clean Water Association is one of the partners receiving a 1997 Watershed Initiative Capacity-Building Grant.

## **IPSWICH**

### **IRWA - Ipswich River Watershed Initiative: Implementation - working together on flow problems**

The Ipswich River suffers from lack of water in the summers and times of drought. In 1995, sixteen miles of the river were dry. Deeply concerned about the lack of flow and its impacts on the ecosystem, Kerry Mackin, Executive Director of IRWA, reached out to partners within the watershed and state and federal agencies. Within the watershed, IRWA initiated a "No Water to Waste Program" (with support from the EnTrust Fund and New England Biolabs Foundation). IRWA met with municipal water suppliers across the region to discuss their concerns. In February, 1996, IRWA convened a water supply task force representing all key "stakeholder" groups. The Task Force is composed of EOEa agencies (DEP, DEM, DFWELE - Riverways), water suppliers and IRWA's Kerry Mackin.

The Task Force has agreed to include a low-flow streamflow threshold in modified Water Management Act permits. When river flows drop to the threshold, public water suppliers will publish a notice in local newspapers asking consumers to conserve water in a variety of ways. The DEP and the Task Force will develop a sample public notice. The Task Force and IRWA will monitor stream flows on a regular basis. In addition, DEP agreed to hold the water allocations at 89-94 levels and grant step increases. The permits issued now will be in effect until 1999.

The decision is a result of hard work on the part of local and state players and was influenced by the new climate of the Watershed Initiative. According to Kerry Mackin, "Its been very helpful to bring all the expertise of the state agencies to bear on this problem. The problem has been 100 years in the making and it will not be solved quickly. We are on the right track."

### **NepRWA - Neponset River Watershed Association : Evaluation**

Ian Cooke, Executive Director of NepRWA, provides a unique perspective on the Watershed Initiative - experience as the pilot project.

Ian believes that one of "the most significant thing[s] was that by working with the new Watershed Initiative approach, the watershed association and residents gained a much better understanding of the water system. We learned about water quality in tributaries and the mainstem. By combining information from the DEP assessment, Stream Team Shoreline Surveys, and town officials, we found out about the causes of impaired water quality: land use, illegal connections, sewer problems."

"Recently our water quality monitors found that the water quality in the urban mainstem (near Mattapan) has improved since the DEP assessment. We feel that much of this improvement is due to the work of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission who has been one of the partners in the Watershed Initiative pilot. Stream Teams have reported problems to them as well as to DEP and town boards."

During a discussion about capacity building, Ian said that "NepRWA decided to invest its time, energy and staff in creating Stream Teams to deal with problems and protect resources rather than in dashing around to solve these problems all ourselves. The investment pays off when groups become self-perpetuating: many of them raise their own money. (The flip side of this is that some of the Stream Teams don't flourish. We need to consider which key players or groups have the potential to work independently.)"

"Many times a Stream Team, because it's local, can accomplish what watershed association on its own couldn't accomplish. The Hawes Brook Stream Team is an example: NepRWA's support for this Stream Team not only increased the capacity of the

Stream Team but also increased the town's capacity because the Stream Team convinced the town that it needed to hire a conservation agent to effectively protect its natural resources."

"During the years of the Neponset Initiative, the association became stronger financially, increased its volunteer participation, and gained more credibility. We increased our membership from 125 members (in 1993) to over 500 members in 1996."

One of the major Watershed Initiative tasks of NepRWA and EOEA agencies was to create a joint Management Plan. Ian reports that "It was a gruelling process to come up with one document that would meet the needs of the community and the needs of the agencies with their mandates. It illustrated the different points of views of the stakeholders. We ended up taking 10 months longer than we expected, but we came out with a document infinitely better. The Neponset River and all of us will be better off in the long run. What an incredible learning experience we have had".

Ian says that the partners in the Neponset "had the unique experience of creating a partnership, a rapport, a working relationship between the agency folks, town folks, businesses, nonprofits, Stream Teams and NepRWA. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was a good example of effectiveness of the Watershed Initiative. By bringing agencies out of their offices and helping people to solve problems, we saw a new side of state agencies, and we think they may have seen a new side of themselves. Having business partners as members of the TAG also brought in new perspectives and skills."

"The TAG has the potential to be a strong component of the Watershed Initiative everywhere. In the future, we need to create a more permanent structure, one that ensures that agency people will be throughout the process - especially during Implementation activities in Year 4. We need to have technical assistance when Stream Teams come in for help, when towns need advice, and the structure should provide for this. We had terrific partners and we all learned a great deal."

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## **News from the Watersheds**

### **BLACKSTONE**

Upper Blackstone Coalition: Led by a steering committee, this group has three major projects in Worcester, the headwaters of the Blackstone. (1) Shoreline Surveys/constituent raising/stewardship; (2) Daylighting; and (3) public education.

The first step was to work with the Coes and Patches Watershed Association to form a Stream Team and complete a Shoreline Survey of Tatnuck Brook. The Tatnuck Steering Committee did an excellent job of outreach: eighty people attended the training workshop conducted by Joan Kimball, Riverways Staff. After the Shoreline Survey Action Planning meeting, the Tatnuck Brook Stream Team formed task forces to accomplish priority projects. The Stream Team has already made partnerships with the Airport and Worcester State College and will appoint liaisons to work with city departments.

The Daylighting Task Force initiated a pilot project to examine the feasibility of restoring a section of Beaver Brook which flows underground. Civil engineering students at Worcester Polytechnical Institute are examining the hydrology of the area, and the Task Force is meeting with the City and the Army Corp of Engineers about the project and plans to increase community involvement through storm drain stenciling and land owner surveys.

Last November, the Task Force conducted a walk along the open and covered sections of Beaver Brook. The walk generated interest in the community regarding how water cycles through an urban community and the walk was covered by the local newspaper.

Miscoe Brook Stream Team: With the support of the Conservation Commission, local officials, abutters, residents and recreational users, a Stream Team has been formed on Miscoe Brook. Following a Shoreline Survey using Adopt-A-Stream/Riverways protocols, the Stream Team is working to create a stewardship Brochure that relates to problems and resources observed in the field.

## **BUZZARDS BAY**

The Buzzards Bay Project, the Division of Marine Fisheries, towns, the Westport River Watershed Alliance, the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to remedy nonpoint source pollution problems.

The Buzzards Bay Project is working with local boards to control and condition new development to avoid the creation of new stormwater discharge problems. It has developed model stormwater regulations and is helping to review projects.

BBP is working with DMF and towns to identify the most promising sites - those that affect shellfish beds - for stormwater remediation sites. It is also working with local communities to support Open Space Planning. Hands Across the River: Acushnet River: Hands Across the River has worked to protect and ensure clean up and long-term protection of the lagoon/wetland on the New Bedford side of the Acushnet River. Rallying people with the cry to "clean up not cover up" the lagoon/wetland, Hands Across the River

worked with city officials and the EPA to find an alternative storage area for dredged PCBs from the superfund site.

After a period of study and negotiation, the EPA decided to store the PCBs elsewhere and protect and preserve the lagoon. This was a major victory for all concerned - the City, Hands Across the River, the EPA and, most importantly, for this wetland. Hands Across the River recently received a DEM grant to increase public education and decision making.

## CHARLES

This fall Boston newspapers had many articles on "hot spots" in the Charles River. This attention resulted from partnerships between the Charles River Watershed Association, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the rowing and fishing community, who reported horrible smells to CRWA. The CRWA would call DEP, and both groups used water quality monitoring to try to pinpoint the cause.

In other cases, DEP would be alerted to a hot spot and rely on CRWA for continued monitoring. After the water quality monitoring volunteers discovered bacterial hot spots in Milford, CRWA followed up with additional monitoring. According to IM3 Coordinator Kathy Baskin, "Any time we see a hot spot through our monitoring, we talk with the towns and appropriate agencies to try to get it resolved. We may conduct more monitoring to determine the source."

Each month, Kathy writes a letter describing what the data means for problem sites and what CRWA has done to address the problem. "This monthly newsletter gives us deadlines to get the ball rolling on solving problems so that I can get back to them and they can clearly see how important their work is for the river. We have 100 people out there doing this water quality monitoring. Receiving the letters helps them understand and serve as advocates for the river as they work with their towns."

CRWA has been able to turn little projects with few players into a big project by letting others know who is on board - in other words, by leveraging it. As an example, Kathy explained, "We are doing a stormwater demo project with NRCS. NRCS gave us \$10,000 to do pre- and post-monitoring on Best Management Practices. They now have committed technical resources to trying out new BMPs."

"Knowing that there are bacteria problems in lower basin, NRCS, EPA and consultants are interested in working out new solutions. Private companies and developers have expressed interest in hosting the structure on their property or paying for a needed structure on other properties. The effort sort of snowballs once you have initial participation, others offer their talents and services to make the project a better one." On April 5, the Corridor

Council is focusing on control of combined sewer overflows in the lower basins. MRWA has put a recommended plan on the table. CRWA is bringing together stakeholders - including the boating community - so that they have an opportunity to comment and share their experience.

The Charles River EOEBA Basin team sponsored three meetings to give residents an opportunity to share their concerns about the Charles River, its resources, and a time for the EOEBA Basin Team to inform basin residents about their workplan and how residents can work with the team. Over ninety people attended the workshops, organized by Karen Pelto, Riverways Staff.

## **CHICOPEE**

The Chicopee River Watershed Council (ChicRWC) reports that it has recently revised its bylaws to reflect the existing organization, has attained 501(c)(3) status and has increased its membership. ChicRWC continues its traditional activities - canoe and hiking trips, clean ups, Earth Day Fair, and Chicopee Challenge Canoe Race. The Chicopee Riverwatch Program completed its fifth year of water quality monitoring with a focus on conditions of the Quabaug River.

A new activity for ChicRWC was cosponsoring a Legislators evening with the Massachusetts Audubon Society to discuss common concerns. Students at the Conway School of Landscape Architecture recently completed an assessment of the Poor Brook watershed. ChicRWC has taken a lead role in ongoing efforts to establish the Chicopee Riverwalk and Bikeway. The Connecticut River Watershed Council continues its support for activities in the Chicopee through a study grant pulling together vital information to be used in resource management planning for the basin.

## **DEERFIELD**

In the aftermath of the shutdown of Yankee Atomic, several board members of the Deerfield River Watershed Association are monitoring the decommissioning of the plant to make sure that it is done in a responsible manner. The Association continues to be involved with partners on the FERC relicensing of New England Power Company's dams. They are also represented on a Community Advisory Panel created by Veratec Industry on the North River.

Green River Watershed Protection Association: The first phase of the GRWPA wetland identification project, which used aerial photography, ran from May to October. In winter 1997, the collected information will be transcribed into GIS and a map will be produced.

## **FARMINGTON**

The Farmington EOEBA Basin Team has been meeting with officials from Massachusetts towns, representatives of the Farmington River Watershed Association (based in Connecticut), and the Connecticut DEP and MDC. The meetings bring together the players who are making decisions on state and local levels to ensure that the Farmington River resources are protected.

## **MERRIMACK**

Merrimack Valley Planning Council, Merrimack River Watershed Council and the Division of Marine Fisheries are engaged in a sampling program for lower Merrimack between Haverhill and Newburyport, to identify levels and sources of fecal coliform with the goal of opening shellfish beds in the estuary. The final report is expected spring 1997.

The entire watershed participated in Merrimack Riverways Cleanup Initiative in September and October. As part of this effort, the Pow Wow Stream Team recently completed a Shoreline Survey and Action Plan. The next steps are to recheck the problem areas and talk with owners.

## **Spicket River**

Last Fall, the MRWC sponsored a bus tour for neighborhood residents to see and learn about the Spicket River. Following the tour, the community was presented with aerial maps of the Spicket River and asked what would they like to see happen on and around the river.

The issue of most concern to the community was flooding due to the October storm. They wanted to see the Spicket River floodplain restored by relocating housing and businesses out of the area and creating a park. Based on the community's concerns and ideas the city of Lawrence submitted a proposal to FEMA requesting funding to restore the floodplain. In addition, the City is working with the MRWC to create a walkway and more open space along the Spicket River.

## **Stony Brook**

Following the Whole Watershed Management Project conference in the fall of 1995, the Stony Brook Watershed Association began implementing its priorities that include: land acquisition and protection to build greenways, coordination of conservation and recreation plans between towns, and communication across town lines. Student water quality monitoring is now coordinated across most of the watershed, and efforts are underway to protect land abutting Beaver Brook.

Future work includes mapping projects (for public education, for management of dams, for stormwater), posting signs of brook names at road crossings, replication of Littleton's groundwater protection bylaw by other towns, land acquisition for the greenway, and expanding water quality monitoring to include an adult program.

## **MYSTIC**

The Alewife/Mystic River Advocates recently received an REI Grant to publish their Shoreline Survey/Action Plan Report. Shoreline Survey findings from both the Advocates and Friends of the Mystic River on the Mystic and Malden Rivers will be included. Reports will be given to officials in towns along the Mystic River and Alewife Brook, to the EOEA Basin Team, and appropriate federal and state agencies.

The Advocates have begun working with the Mystic Valley Regional Development Commission on the Telecom City Project and have submitted public comments on the proposed Gateway Shopping Center at the old Monsanto site. Plans to celebrate the Mystic River and its herring run are underway. Following up on their Action Plan, the Friends have been working with the Metropolitan District Commission to ensure that maintenance plans for the banks consider implications for habitat.

## **Chelsea Creek**

The Chelsea Creek Action Group is a coalition of three groups from East Boston and Chelsea: the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council, Neighborhood of Affordable Housing, and the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative/Chelsea Greenspace and Recreation Committee. These three community-based groups are leading the effort to assist East Boston and Chelsea residents develop and implement a vision for the Chelsea Creek. The groups have organized two boat tours and one walking tour of the Creek. Over the coming year they plan on conducting resident-led Shoreline Surveys, mapping, and assessment of environmental problems surrounding the river.

## **NARRAGANSETT**

### **Runnins River**

Among the goals of the Runnins River Steering Committee are to reopen Hundred Acre Cove to shellfishing and to increase public awareness and protection of the Runnins River.

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management is following up on the wet weather survey conducted by agency staff and volunteers. Subwatersheds that contribute the greatest bacterial loads have been identified for additional survey work to pinpoint sources.

Massachusetts DEP and EPA Region I have cooperated on investigating potential sources of bacterial pollution from failing septic systems and/or stormwater retention areas in the Route 6 area of Seekonk. The Pokanoket Watershed Alliance continues to conduct a volunteer water quality monitoring program which serves as an excellent screening tool to highlight potential pollution sources.

## **NASHUA**

Working with the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA), an Americorps member has been organizing volunteers to help communities with the long-term process of protecting the Squannacook River. Townsend residents stabilized an 80 foot section riverbank that had been previously embedded with stacks of tires.

NRWA continues its work to protect riparian greenways by updating landowner maps on riverfront land on the mainstem and tributaries and creating a database of land ownership records.

The oldest Stream Team in the basin, the Monoosnoc Brook Greenway Project, has just published a curriculum guide, "The Monoosnoc Brook Outdoor Classroom." It contains inquiry based activities that lead students through projects such as building a model watershed.

Following up on recommendations of the 2020 Plan, NRWA is forming Stream Teams that combine land and water protection. The NRWA is reaching out to all the towns in the watershed to talk to them about the 2020 plan and recommendations.

## **NEPONSET**

On March 26, 1997, the Neponset Watershed Community Council will convene. Charged with implementing the Neponset Watershed Action Plan, the Council will foster cooperation throughout the watershed. Membership on the council is being recruited; all meetings will be open to the public.

Canton River Watershed Watchdogs are working with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify flow problems in the impoundments. The Hawes Brook Stream Team is participating in Norwood's Open Space Forum to advise the town on ways to protect its rivers and streams. The Hawes Brook group recently participated in the MEPA process to secure preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for a proposed development site.

## **NORTH COASTAL**

Salem Sound 2000 has completed four shellfish bed surveys. Their goal is to demonstrate to the Division of Marine Fisheries and the public that Salem Sound is harvestable for soft shell clams. As part of this effort, they have formed five Stream Teams that will use the Riverways Shoreline Survey methodology to inventory potential sources of pollution. They have received a grant from Mass. Environmental Trust to develop a regional pollution prevention strategy.

Eight Towns and the Bay - with the Parker River Clean Water Association has completed an inventory and assessment of restrictions to tidal flow within the region. Results will be presented to highway departments and environmental agencies as part of a plan to incorporate solutions that correct restrictive crossings into future road work.

The Saugus River Watershed Council is working with the Health Agent in the Town of Saugus to ascertain the source of coliform bacteria found by SRWC volunteer water quality monitors and Shoreline Surveyors.

## **SOUTH COASTAL**

### **North and South Rivers**

They did it! After six years of hard work, the North and South Rivers Watershed Association attained its goal of reopening the shellfish beds at the mouth of the North River. In November, 1991, believing that without their help the shellfish beds had virtually no chance of being reopened, the NSRWA introduced its Harvest '95 Program. Working with the Division of Marine Fisheries and the Mass. Bays Program, NSRWA monitored the North and South Rivers with the goal of reducing fecal coliform levels and the general improvement of water quality to the extent that the North River shellfish beds could safely be reopened.

Its monitoring results led NSRWA to take action to identify and eliminate hot spots. Improvements at highway bridge crossings are now being incorporated into Mass Highway Department redesign plans. A Marshfield neighborhood is now home to a special stormwater filtering catch basin system, thanks to \$33,500 grant from the Mass Bays Program.

### **Jones River**

Working with the Mass Bays Program, Jones River Watershed Association is monitoring Kingston Bay for fecal coliform. As part of their goal to reopen shellfish beds, the group has installed Storm Treat system units along the river and are monitoring their pollutant removal effectiveness. Through the 1995 Shoreline Survey, JRWA identified additional sites to monitor for bacterial pollution.

## **SUDBURY/ASSABET/CONCORD (SuAsCo)**

Working with EPA and an EPA Technical Assistance Grant, the Framingham Advocates for the Sudbury River are monitoring the impacts from the Nyanza Superfund site and the methods to clean the twenty-five miles of contaminated sediment. FASR is playing an active role in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority MetroWest Tunnel Working Group to monitor impacts from this large public works project.

After completing a study of Open Space Plans to see if and how they protected riverine resources in the SuAsCo watershed, Riverways staff member Julia Blatt is offering assistance to town officials charged with writing Open Space Plans. Riverways and the Sudbury Valley Trustees are cooperating to create a conference on Open Space Planning and land protection.

## **TAUNTON**

In the Taunton Watershed, the emphasis is on partnerships, greenway protection and sustainable growth. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has purchased its first property in the Taunton Basin. The Grant Property, a second growth woodland, contains 67 acres on River Street in Middleboro.

The Wildlands Trust of Southeastern Massachusetts has worked steadily to focus attention on the Taunton River, its tributaries and the Taunton River Watershed. Describing it as one of the "most beautiful, most diverse and most unprotected riverine ecosystems in New England," the Trust worries that "without coordinated action this special place is truly a "River at Risk."

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is working with the Trust as are TRWA, the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District. The Trust has received and is seeking grants to develop property ownership maps and to conduct an ecological assessment of the Tauntons' rich wildlife and habitats.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, the Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee is pursuing a greenway along the Canoe River, an important tributary of the Taunton River.

## **WESTFIELD**

More good news! The Division of Fisheries & Wildlife reports that twenty-one salmon have returned to the Westfield River. This is the largest number of salmon that have

returned to any of the rivers in Massachusetts. In 1995, the first documented natural spawning of Atlantic Salmon in Massachusetts waters occurred in some 200 years. The Division has radio tracked salmon to learn where they spawn.

A major factor in their return was the fishway installation at the DSI dam. This fishway also gives the Division the ability to see and count other species, such as the passage of 1400 shad upstream. Partnering with citizens, Westfield State College and others, the Division continues to stock salmon fingerlings in the river.

## **Help Halt Alien Invasion!**

You can help prevent the spread of zebra mussels into Massachusetts waters by educating watershed constituents and boat ramp users. One way that zebra mussels move from one water body to another is from boats, boat motors, canoes, and even bait buckets. Removing debris from motor props, boats, and trailers is good prevention.

Zebra mussels look like small clams with a "D" shaped shell and a distinctive pattern of alternating yellowish or brownish light and dark bands. Usually an inch long, they grow in clusters of numerous individuals and are generally found in shallow, algae-rich waters.

Zebra mussels "muscle" out native clams and their rapid growth can block intake pipes and foul other structures. They prefer pH on the basic side, making many Massachusetts waters inhospitable. However, prevention is the best defense against infestation - inspect boats at put-in and take-out points; drain boats, bait buckets, and live wells; wash with hot water and allow boats and trailers to completely dry in the sun. Report any potential sightings to Doug Smith at UMASS-Amherst, 413-545-1956, or Kathy Seward, MIT Sea Grant Program, 617-253-5944.

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## **Momentum Builds for Urban Rivers**

This promises to be an exciting year for Riverways' Urban Rivers Program. In 1996, we developed the Program's foundation and built awareness of the potential recreation and economic uses along our urban rivers. In 1997, we hope to build links to more urban rivers and their advocates across Massachusetts. To highlight the wonderful projects happening around urban rivers in Massachusetts, we are planning our first Urban Rivers Forum. The Forum will be held late spring and will feature collaborative work by urban rivers groups and university and college students.

Academic institutions in our cities and towns are often underutilized resources for urban river projects. We also hope the Forum will increase awareness of the potential that exists along our urban rivers for recreational use, fish and wildlife habitat, and increased economic activity. More information on the Forum will be coming your way!

## **Funding Grassroots Efforts**

Thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust, we will be working with five graduate students, their professors, and project sponsors on five urban river projects this spring: Spicket River, Mystic River, Fore River, Beaver Brook, and Hearthstone Brook. All five projects will be presented at Riverways' Urban Rivers Forum. The following is a brief summary of each of the projects.

*Spicket River (Merrimack River Watershed Council)* The Spicket River flows virtually unnoticed through Lawrence as it makes its way to the Merrimack River. A graduate student will develop a bi-lingual publication called "A People's Guide to the Lawrence Waterways" to promote awareness of the value and opportunity inherent in the waterways flowing through the city. The guide will describe historic and current uses of the river and canals including flood control, water supply, economic development, wildlife and recreational uses.

*Fore River (Fore River Watershed Association)* The Fore River is home to one of the most successful rainbow smelt runs in Massachusetts Bay. In contrast, the blueback herring run is still struggling. The Fore River Watershed Association seeks to improve the herring run and highlight this important resource in their watershed guide and public presentations. A graduate student will identify physical or water quality impediments to the run as well as assist with community education.

*Lower Mystic River (Friends of the Mystic River)* The Friends of the Mystic River have identified an area of the Mystic River, behind Medford Square, which has a terrible odor, especially in the summer. The graduate student will conduct a water quality analysis to ascertain the source and causes of the odor.

*Beaver Brook (Headwaters Coalition)* The Blackstone River originates in the heart of Worcester. Many of the streams that once freely flowed into the Blackstone are culverted and covered with pavement. The Headwaters Coalition is examining the possibility of daylighting one of these forgotten streams to restore its meanders, wetlands, and rocky bottom. A graduate student will build on a hydrology report of the area by examining the aesthetic aspects of renaturalizing the brook and conducting outreach to the local community.

*Hearthstone Brook (The City of Chicopee Planning Department)* The Hearthstone Brook

flows through Chicopee; urban runoff is causing streambank erosion. This spring, the Chicopee Planning and Development Office will stabilize the banks by reshaping them and planting native vegetation. A graduate student will video tape the site and interview people involved with the project. The instructional video will be available for other urban river groups, local departments of public works, and conservation commissions interested in beginning a restoration project.

## **Supporting Local Partners**

This spring, Riverways will also assist Reaching out to Chelsea Adolescents (ROCA) with various projects on Mill Creek in Chelsea. Chelsea is a highly urbanized area with limited open space. Prior to the pressures of population growth and urbanization, a large portion of Chelsea was salt marsh. Mill Creek is the last remnant of this ecosystem and an untapped resource for this community. ROCA will ascertain marsh health and work to increase awareness and access to this amazing resource.

The Riverways Urban Rivers Program is currently working with Alternatives for Community and Environment, JSI, and Environmental Diversity Forum, to support ROCA's community mapping project. The map will identify sensitive receptors (schools, hospitals, parks etc.) and areas of concern (vacant lots, abandoned buildings, etc.) in Chelsea. ROCA is including the Chelsea Creek as a sensitive receptor and identifying possible sources of pollutants which may be harming the Creek.

Information on industrial pollutants will be attained through the Federal Community Right to Know Act: SARA Title III. This Act requires manufacturers with more than 10 employees to report their emissions to air, land, and water of over 300 toxic chemicals. This information is available to the public on several internet sites. In partnership with the City of Somerville and the Mystic/Alewife River Advocates, Riverways is exploring the Texas Water-watch model for a volunteer stormwater monitoring program along the Alewife Brook. Waterwatch involves watershed constituents, such as the City of Somerville, in the design phase of the program. This connection insures the city will see the data as relevant and the citizens will have an established relationship with the city for working on stormwater issues.

The Urban Rivers Program hopes these projects and others presented at the forum will serve as models or tools for working on your urban river. Anne and Maria look forward to interacting with more groups in the upcoming year and we hope to see all of you at the Forum in May. If you know of other efforts occurring on urban rivers which should be included in the Forum or would like additional information on the Urban Rivers Program, please call Anne Livingston at 727-1614 x 359.

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## RESOURCES & GRANTS

### Grants

The Grassroots Environment Fund will award grants ranging from \$500 to \$2500 to support community conservation and environmental initiatives in Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Fund will support computer networking, advocacy campaigns, public education, and building partnerships. Proposals must be postmarked by April 1st. For application forms and guidelines, contact Cheryl King Fischer at 802-223-4622 or email [cfischer@plainfield.bypass.com](mailto:cfischer@plainfield.bypass.com).

Requests for up to \$20,000 under the Urban Forest Planning and Education grant program funded by the USDA and administered by the Department of Environmental Management are due April 11th. For more information, contact Phillip Rodbell at 617-727-3180 x657.

The Environmental Protection Agency announces environmental justice grants to assist environmental, academic, community and grassroots groups in undertaking pollution prevention initiatives that reduce environmental risks while promoting public involvement and economic benefits. Groups can request up to 100,000 for individual projects and up to \$300,000 for collaborative efforts. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th. For copies of the grant program guidance and application package, call 703-841-0483. Nonprofits and municipalities seeking funds for implementation projects that prevent, control, and abate nonpoint source pollution will want to obtain the Department of Environmental Protection's Request For Responses (RFR) under s. 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. Grant proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on April 17th. For a copy of the RFR, contact Leslie O'Shea, DEP, Division of Municipal Services, 627 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Worcester, MA 01608, 508-767-2796.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council disperses funds each year to non government organizations and to municipalities. The Council welcomes requests for information about its Science and Communities program and their funds for organizational support. Call Mark Winetraut for more information at 617-727-6668.

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### Services

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative offers low-cost workshops for planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. Sessions covering special permits, preserving community character, conflict resolution, and roles and responsibilities will be held

throughout April at various locations. Call 617-246-4681 for dates and times.

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs/MassGIS program has worked with the Environmental Systems Research Institute to develop the MassGIS Data Viewer, a low-cost introductory GIS software application. Data Viewer enables you to access GIS datalayers and print results for your watershed or community. You only need a 386 PC, 8 megabytes of memory, and several hundred megabytes of disk space to load and use the Viewer. Contact Carl Nylen at MassGIS, 617-727-5227 x323 or [cnylen@state.ma.us](mailto:cnylen@state.ma.us).

Outdoor Explorations brings together people of all abilities, including people with cognitive, physical and sensory disabilities, to enjoy and protect the natural environment. OE seeks volunteers to assist with kayaking, canoeing, and backpacking trips as well as service projects that include trail-building, planting urban gardens, and riverway cleanups. Contact Jen Quest-Stern at 617-491-4200 x256 for information and to sign-up for volunteer training.

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## **Guidebooks and Publications**

River Network's Starting Up distills the experiences of grassroots leaders across the country to guide new river and watershed organizations. Advice ranges from recruiting your board of directors to working with the media and producing a newsletter. The cost is \$25.00 from River Network, Publications, P.O. Box 8787, Portland, OR 97207, 503-241-3506, [rivernet@igc.apc.org](mailto:rivernet@igc.apc.org).

Promoting Pollution Prevention Among Dischargers to POTWs is available free from the Environmental Defense Fund to help communities limit the discharge of toxics into their sewer system. To order, call (202) 387-3500. EDF's newsletter, including searchable back issues, is available at [www.edf.org](http://www.edf.org).

Riparian Area Management: A Citizen's Guide, educates streamside homeowners on riparian habitat and impacts from improper lawn care and yard waste disposal, soil erosion and measures they can take to stabilize banks and treat stormwater. Available free from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, 333-B Peterson Rd. Libertyville, IL 60048. Phone 708-918-5260.

The Economic Benefits of Runoff Controls (EPA 841-S-95-002, Sept. 1995), by EPA's office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, explores the positive effects of well designed stormwater controls. Available free from the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information at (513)489-8190.

The EPA and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments offer three new

handbooks in their Environmental Land Planning Series: Site Planning for Urban Stream Protection which emphasizes nonstructural approaches, Clearing and Grading Strategies for Urban Watersheds featuring steps to minimize sediment load, and Riparian Buffer Strategies for Urban Watersheds highlighting pollutant removal. Also available: Cluster Development Strategies for Urban Watersheds and Residential Street Strategies for Urban Watersheds. To order, call 202-962-3200 or fax 202-962-3201.

The American Canoe Association offers for sale a number of canoeing how-to and safety books, videos, and posters. Call them at 703-451-0141 for a brochure describing the ACA Bookshelf.

"Restoring America's Streams" is a 28-minute video companion to A Citizen's Streambank Restoration Handbook produced by the Isaak Walton League of America that helps people learn to stabilize eroding streambanks and restore degraded streamside forests. Call 1-800-BUG-IWLA for order forms or send \$20.00 payable to IWLA to Stream Doctor Project, 707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983.

Winning Grants Step By Step, a workbook for planning, developing and writing successful proposals, is available for \$25.00, including shipping, from the Support Center of Massachusetts, 41 Winter St., Suite 55, Boston, MA 02108-4722.

Environmental Grantmaking Foundations 1996 profiles over 700 independent, community, and corporate sponsored foundations that give environmental grants. For information, phone 1-800-724-1857 or email [edri@eznet.net](mailto:edri@eznet.net).

Environmental protection does not hurt a state's economy; in fact, the odds are 14:1 against a negative relationship, according to a study published by MIT professor Stephen Meyer. A summary article appears in the May 1996 Winslow Environmental News, 617-695-1863; a longer version is in the Sept./Oct. 1995 issue of the Journal of Environmental Law and Practice, 1-800-950-1205.

The natural, social, and economic value provided to communities by protecting open space is detailed in The Economic Value of Open Space: A Review and Synthesis by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy (\$10.50). Call them at 1-800-526-3873 for information. Land policy related publications, educational opportunities and a bimonthly newsletter are available at [www.igc.apc.org/lincoln/index.html](http://www.igc.apc.org/lincoln/index.html).

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## **Workshops and Events**

The Massachusetts Land Trust Conference will be held March 22 in Boylston, MA. For information, contact the MA Land Trust Coalition at 508-524-1863 or [landcons@ttor.org](mailto:landcons@ttor.org).

Attend the Waterworks Symposium at Harvard University to view new developments in water-related public art and architecture, from large-scale environmental restoration to new water technologies. For information, call 617-349-4381.

On April 8, 1997, the Riverways Programs is co-sponsoring with Mass Coastal Zone Management and DEM's Office of Water Resources a workshop for volunteer monitors interested in tracking flood and drought flows for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The experiences of last October's flooding showed the need to gather information on smaller rivers and streams to aid in predicting the effects of extreme weather. Contact Joseph Pelczarski of CZM at 617-727-9530 x 456 or Karen Pelto of Riverways at 617-727-1614 x 359 for information.

American Rivers and America Outdoors will be co-sponsoring National River Cleanup Week from May 10-17. Register a cleanup of your favorite river by April 1, plan to get outdoors during the official week, and you are eligible for free trash bags, cleanup kits, and safety tips. For details contact America Outdoors at 423-558-3595, [www.americaoutdoors.org](http://www.americaoutdoors.org), or American Rivers at 202-547-6900, [www.amrivers.org/](http://www.amrivers.org/).

Our New England Waters: Sharing Successes, Building the Future combines the annual lakes conference with a New England regional volunteer monitoring conference. Workshops on alternative on-site wastewater treatment systems, watershed assessment methodology, internet and GIS have already been scheduled. It will be held at the University of Rhode Island from June 6-8; call 401-874-2905 or email [riww@uriacc.uri.edu](mailto:riww@uriacc.uri.edu) for more information.

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## On-line Resources

The text of the Massachusetts Rivers Protection Act, Chapter 258 of the Acts of 1996, can be found at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/files/riveract.html](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/files/riveract.html). See [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/wwpubs.htm#river](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/ww/wwpubs.htm#river) for other documents regarding the Rivers Act.

Watershed folks who are interested in water conservation should be aware of the American Water Works Association, the largest professional organization for the water industry, at [www.awwa.org](http://www.awwa.org).

Everything you ever wanted to know about the Merrimack River including; recreation, water quality, reports and publications, watershed information and volunteer monitoring can be found at the Merrimack River Initiative's web page at [www.merrimack.org](http://www.merrimack.org).

The Internet provides access to free government databases including the Federal Register,

Congressional Record, Congressional Bills, Public Laws, U.S. Code, and links to other government information. Start at [www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs) or call the Government Printing Office at 202-512-1530 for information on telnet and direct-modem options.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has found that states allow markedly different limits on toxic discharges; for a copy of their study detailing these and other findings on wastewater treatment plant violations, you can download GAO reports RCED-96-23 and RCED-96-42 from [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov) or call 202-512-6000.

The Environmental Working Group publishes a biweekly newsletter on Wise Use tactics and activities called CLEAR View, available on its web site at [www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org). By email, send a "subscribe" message to [CLEAR@ewg.org](mailto:CLEAR@ewg.org).

The "Takings" resource page, sponsored by the Planning Commissioners Journal provides background information to help people respond to the "property rights" movement, including a state-by-state summary of takings bills and legislation. It is available at [www.webcom.com/~pcj/takings.html](http://www.webcom.com/~pcj/takings.html).

Environmental justice, particularly issues facing communities of color, has a home on the web, with many links to nonprofit and government resource sites, [www.econet.apc.org/envjustice](http://www.econet.apc.org/envjustice).

The Natural Areas Association now has a web page at [www.natareas.org](http://www.natareas.org).

Shellfish are the exclusive subject of [www.shellfish.org](http://www.shellfish.org) -- a site sponsored by the National Shellfisheries Association. The site lists shellfish-related jobs, listservers, and other resources.

The Environmental Success Index with 1,600 models of successful local environmental programs is available as a networking and research tool from Renew America at [solstice.crest.org/renew\\_america](http://solstice.crest.org/renew_america).

The Trust for Public Land's web site includes information on TPL's Green Cities Initiative which focuses land conservation in ten urban areas, [www.igc.apc.org/tpl/](http://www.igc.apc.org/tpl/).

Information on farmland preservation, environmentally friendly farming practices, and relevant legislation is available from the American Farmland Trust at [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org).

The links in this section were verified on June 2, 1997

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## EOEA WATERSHED TEAM LEADERS

Blackstone	Robert Kimball/DEP-CERO
Boston Harbor	Jane Mead/CZM
Buzzards Bay	Dave Janik/CZM
Cape Cod	Christine Gault/DEM
Charles	Rachel Freed/DEP-NERO
Chicopee	William Pula/MDC
Deerfield	Larry Golonka/DEP-WERO
Connecticut	Rich Hubbard/DFA
French & Quinebaug	John Desmond/DEP-CERO
Farmington	Karen Nelson/DEM
Hudson	David Robb/DEM
Housatonic	Kurt Boisjolie/DEP-WERO
Islands	Greg Skomal/DMF
Ipswich	John Felix/DEP-NERO
Millers	Bob McCollum/DEP-WERO
Merrimack	Jim Sprague/DEP-NERO
Nashua	Pat Austin/MDC
Narragansett	Dave Burns/DEP-SERO
Parker	Ralph Perkins/DEP-NERO
North Coastal	Larry Gil/DEP-NERO
South Coastal	Sarah Bacon/DEP-SERO
Shawsheen	Elizabeth Sabounjian, DEP-NERO & Ralph Goodno, MRWC
Taunton	Jack Hamm, DEP-SERO & John Post/DFW
SuAsCo	Mark Casella/DEP-NERO
Westfield	Mike Parker/DEM
Ten Mile	Cynthia Barakatt & Jennifer Hunt/OTA
CERO - 508-792-7650	NERO - 617-727-5195
SERO - 508-727-6175	WERO - 413-784-1100

## See YOUR Urban River Project Up in Lights!

We are looking for before and after slides of successful urban river projects in Massachusetts. The projects could include an urban streambank restoration project,

development of a greenway, or cleaning up an area for public access. Help us inspire new groups showing by them the potential that exists in their urban river. If you are interested in having your project serve as encouragement for other urban rivers group, please call Anne Livingston at 727-1614 x 359.

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## Staff Notes

At the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting, Russ Cohen received an Environmental Service Award for his role in achieving passage of the Rivers Protection Act along with efforts to educate the public about the functions and values of rivers and adjacent lands.

Three new staff have joined the Riverways Programs: As Stream Ecologist, Cindy DelPapa brings expertise in water chemistry, water quality monitoring, and experience with the NPDES process and how watershed groups can work with their local government boards to solve water quality problems. Her work complements Stream Ecologist Karen Pelto, who will focus on instream flow and fishery habitat improvements. They both work part-time.

Steven Lewis and Becka Roolf will assist Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator Joan Kimball in forming and supporting Stream Teams. Steven's experience in oral history theater complements his masters degrees in urban planning and landscape architecture, providing him with unique skills in helping groups determine their "sense of place." The Charles, Ipswich, North Coastal, Parker and SuAsCo watersheds will benefit from Becka's creative energy; she has been a small-town newspaper reporter, multi-media computer specialist, and a graduate student in Celtic studies.

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Riverways Programs 617-727-1614 Maria Van Dusen, Riverways Coordinator x 360 Joan C. Kimball, Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator x 384 Russell A. Cohen, Rivers Advocate x 358 Karen I. Pelto, Stream Ecologist x 359 David McGowan, Administrative Assistant Cindy DelPapa, Stream Ecologist x 359 Dave Gabriel, Grafix & Chang Ch'uan Special Programs Julia Blatt, SuAsCo Wild & Scenic Rivers Study Amy Klippenstein, Westfield River Outreach Sally Kleinfeldt, Assabet Watershed Study Anne Livingston, Urban Rivers Steven Lewis, Stream Team Organizer Becka Roolf, Stream Team Assistant **Save Something on Your Taxes Help save endangered wildlife. Please contribute on your Massachusetts income tax form to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species**

**Fund. For information call (508) 792-7270 ext. 200.**

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Date Last Update: June 2, 1997

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Contact: Russ Cohen, Riverways WWW Coordinator at [Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us](mailto:Russ.Cohen@state.ma.us)

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Mass. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

Mass. Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement

Mass. DFWELE Riverways Program

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